

**REMARKS**

This Amendment and Response to Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed January 9, 2006. Claims 1-39 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-39 stand rejected. Specifically, Claims 1-26 and 29-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dragone (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,655) in view of Yoshifuji (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,426). Claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dragone in view of Yoshifuji, and further in view of Arzt (U.S. Patent No. 6,087,958).

In response to these rejections, Claims 1, 16, and 29 have been amended to clarify the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. These amendments are fully supported in the Specification, Drawings, and Claims of the Application and no new matter has been added. As a result of the amendments, and in view of the following remarks, Applicants submit that the Application is now in condition for allowance, without further search, and respectfully request such action.

**Rejection of Claims 1-26 and 29-39 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) - Dragone and Yoshifuji:**

Claims 1-26 and 29-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dragone (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,655) in view of Yoshifuji (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,426).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

1. A method for switching data lines, the method comprising:

establishing a configuration for a switch element, the configuration comprising a plurality of connections between data lines in a first plurality of data lines and data lines in a second plurality of data lines, the switch element including a set of ingress devices, a set of center stage devices, and a set of egress devices, each connection including at least one of the ingress devices, one of the center stage devices and one of the egress devices, wherein multiple connections are extended across each center stage device;

logically modeling the switch element and **mapping a multi-stage logical model that represents the components of the switch element in multiple stages, comprising an input sorter, an input router, a center stage device, an output router, and an output sorter, to the switch element;**

detecting a switching event;

selecting a portion of the plurality of connections, including one or more connections across at least one of the center stage devices; and

rearranging only the selected connections across at least one of the center stage devices in response to the switching event using the logical model.

Claims 16 and 29 have been similarly amended.

Examiner states that Dragone teaches a method and system of an optical crossconnect switching system with routers combined with the space switches (Figure 4A, routers 401).

More specifically, Examiner states that the method step, “logically modeling the switch element and mapping a logical model to the switch element, wherein the set of ingress devices are modeled as one or more logical ingress devices, the set of center stage devices are modeled as one or more logical center stage devices, and the set of egress devices are modeled as one or more logical egress devices” is taught in Dragone (Col. 6, line 58 – Col. 7., line 54, Figures 4a and 5 – 7). Examiner further states that in Dragone, each switch element is independently redesigned to incorporate one or more routers within a given switch element such as ingress, center, or egress switches as appropriate and that reducing the number of routers simplifies loss of crosstalk problems by appropriately optimizing ingress and egress switch elements.

Applicants strongly assert, however, that what Dragone teaches is a CLOS implementation that supports wavelength switching with minimal crosstalk. The present invention, on the other hand, discloses a logical partitioning of a CLOS architecture that allows partial updates to the fabric to facilitate fast switching. Moreover, the present invention is a modeling of a fabric that allows only a portion of the fabric to be recalculated when a switching event is applied to the fabric. Dragone does not teach the logical partitioning of a CLOS architecture that allows partial updates to the fabric to facilitate fast switching, nor does Dragone teach a **multi-stage logical model (comprising an input sorter, an input router, a center stage device, an output router, and an output sorter)**. Additionally, these deficiencies are not remedied by Yoshifuji.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1-26 and 29-39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dragone in view of Yoshifuji has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

**Rejection of Claims 27 and 28 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) – Dragone, Yoshifuji, and Arzt:**

Claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dragone in view of Yoshifuji, and further in view of Arzt (U.S. Patent No. 6,087,958).

Because Claims 27 and 28 are dependent from independent Claim 16, the above arguments apply with equal force here.

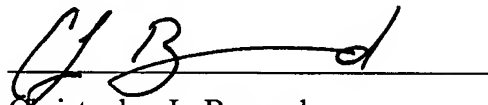
Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dragone in view of Yoshifuji, and further in view of Arzt, has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christopher L. Bernard  
Registration No.: 48,234  
Bradley D. Crose  
Registration No.: 56,766  
Attorneys for Applicants

**DOUGHERTY | CLEMENTS**  
1901 Roxborough Road, Suite 300  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211 USA  
Telephone: 704.366.6642  
Facsimile: 704.366.9744  
cbernard@worldpatents.com